



## Framework for Citizenship: Civics, Service, Character and International Education

The National Center for Learning and Citizenship notes, “Concerns over the current condition and future of citizenship education are at an all-time high. Evidence of declining civic knowledge, skills and engagement of young people continues to accumulate. Interested groups and individuals representing both liberal and conservative perspectives agree that public schools play an important role in addressing this national dilemma. Indeed, a recommitment to the civic mission of schools is needed at every level of the education system.”

The commitment to the civic mission of Idaho schools is *required* under Thoroughness Standard #8 (**33-1612 Thorough system of public schools.**) “The importance of students acquiring the skills to enable them to be responsible citizens of their homes, schools and communities is emphasized.” Likewise, it is *reiterated* in the Rules of the Board Governing Education (**08.02.03.170. CITIZENSHIP.**) “Schools will provide instruction and activities necessary for students to acquire the skills to enable them to be responsible citizens in their homes, schools, communities, state and nation.”

Additionally, that commitment is *acknowledged* at the school building level on the annual accreditation reporting if “All students are provided with an opportunity to enhance their civic content knowledge and participatory skills through a school-defined commitment to citizenship education.”

As education stakeholders engage in the review and/or development of curricular materials, classroom unit or lesson plans, or programs dedicated to support the civic mission of the schools, it is recommended that policymakers develop not just students’ civic *knowledge* but also their civic *skills* and *dispositions*. A community connection is vital for effective instruction to foster civic skills and dispositions. Identified in the Carnegie / CIRCLE Report on the Civic Mission of the Schools, six promising approaches to civic education have been recommended:

### ***Six promising approaches to civic education:***

1. Provide instruction in government, history, law, and democracy.
2. Incorporate discussion of current local, national, and international issues and events into the classroom, particularly those that young people view as important to their lives.
3. Design and implement programs that provide students with the opportunity to apply what they learn through performing community service that is linked to the formal curriculum and classroom instruction.
4. Offer extracurricular activities that provide opportunity for young people to get involved in their schools or communities.
5. Encourage student participation in school governance.
6. Encourage students’ participation in simulations of democratic processes and procedures.